

ANGOLA: SOUTH AFRICA SEEKS COEXISTENCE AGREEMENT WITH MPLA

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AFMOND MARCO DISPATCH

(TEXT) JOHANNESBURG, 21 DEC--IF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT INTERFERE IN ANGOLA, SOUTH AFRICA WILL ACCEPT A COMPROMISE SOLUTION, IT WAS LEARNED HERE TODAY FROM DIPLOMATIC SOURCES.

SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE MINISTER PETER BOTHA TODAY SAID THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ITS ARMY INTERVENE ALONE IN ANGOLA.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE OPENLY AGAINST A UNILATERAL SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. CONTENDING THAT THE COUNTRY CANNOT FACE ALONE A MASSIVE OPPOSITION FROM THE USSR AND CUBA, WHICH ARE SUPPORTING THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT (MPLA).

POLITICALLY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RATHER FIND A FORMULA OF COEXISTENCE WITH THOSE IN POWER IN LUANDA, ACCEPTING THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER THAN WAR IN A NEIGHBOR COUNTRY AS RICH IN RESOURCES AS ANGOLA.

IN PRETORIA IT IS BELIEVED THAT AFTER THE U.S. CONGRESS VETOED U.S. INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, THE USSR AND THE UNITED STATES WILL REACH A COMPROMISE ON THIS PART OF THE WORLD WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT BETWEEN LUANDA AND PRETORIA.

OPEN TALKS ALREADY HAVE BEEN GOING ON ABOUT EXCHANGING FOUR SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS--PRISONERS OF THE MPLA--FOR CUBANS IN THE HANDS OF THE MPLA-UNITA COALITION SUPPORTED BY PRETORIA.

THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS EXCHANGE WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO OTHER CONTACTS BETWEEN PRETORIA AND LUANDA ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE CONFLICT OF WHICH VERY LITTLE IS SAID, SUCH AS THE ZONES CONTROLLED BY THE MPLA OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE DE BEERS COMPANY, WHICH BELONGS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN MAGNATE HARRY OPPENHEIMER.

THE DE BEERS COMPANY HAS THE TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF THE RICH DIAMOND MINE OF THE ANGOLAN DIAMOND COMPANY, WHICH USED TO BELONG TO PORTUGAL BUT IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE MPLA.

IT IS NOT A SECRET TO ANYONE IN PRETORIA THAT DESPITE THE HOSTILITY BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE MPLA, THE DE BEERS AND THE DIAMOND MINES COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER TO THE POINT THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE IN CHARGE OF SELLING THE ANGOLAN PRODUCTION ABROAD.

AND THE SALE OF DIAMONDS OF THE DIAMOND AND CABINDA'S OIL REPRESENTS 85 PERCENT OF THE INCOME FROM THE FOREIGN SALE WHICH GOES EXCLUSIVELY TO THE MPLA'S SAFES.

MEANWHILE, THE U.S. COMPANY, GULF OIL, WHICH HAS A FIRM FOOTING IN ANGOLA WHICH SUPPLIES THE MPLA'S ARMY WITH ALL THE OIL IT CONSUMES, IS ANOTHER PARADOXICAL ASPECT OF THE ANGOLAN WAR AS WELL AS U.S. NONINTERVENTIONISM.

DESPITE HIS MILLIONS, HARRY OPPENHEIMER IS A SUPPORTER OF THE LIBERAL CAUSE IN HIS COUNTRY WHICH GIVES HIM A GREAT PRESTIGE IN BLACK AFRICAN CAPITALS AND MAKES HIM A POTENTIAL NEGOTIATOR WITH LUANDA.

OPPENHEIMER ALREADY HAD A POSITIVE INTERVENTION AS PROPRIETOR OF THE ANGO-AMERICAN CORPORATION, WITH LARGE COPPER INTERESTS IN ZAMBIA, IN THE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JOHN VORSTER.

IT ALSO HAS BEEN SAID THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND MOZAMBIQUE ARE GOOD AND EVEN CORDIAL DESPITE THE ENORMOUS IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES.

THIS IS BECAUSE MOZAMBIQUE, BECAUSE OF THE WAGES PAID TO 120,000 MOZAMBIQUANS WHO WORK IN HARRY OPPENHEIMER'S GOLD MINES, HE IS ALSO THE MAJOR STOCKHOLDER OF THE LITA COMPANY WHICH IS BUILDING THE GIGANTIC CABORA-BASSA DAM.

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